

REMARKS

The purpose of this preliminary amendment is to amend Claim 1. As amended, claim 1 calls for the ratio of the area of the grooves with respect to the area of the circumferential surface when they are projected on the same plane is in the range of 30 – 99.5%. Support for this amendment can be found in the application as originally filed. For example, please see the second paragraph of page 21. Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the claimed projected area ratio.

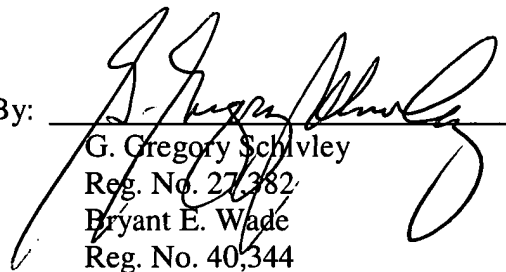
Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

May 27, 2003

By:


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